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Fax

To:	Attorney General John Ashcroft	From:	Arlene M. Clemens
Fax:	(202) 307-1454	Date:	January 25, 2002
Phone:		Pages:	2
Re:	Microsoft Lawsuit	CC:	
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January 24, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

For 32 years I was an employee of Alex. Brown & Sons Incorporated, which was bought out by Bankers Trust and then Deutsche Bank. After my retirement I was employed by the law firm of Piper Marbury Rudnick & Wolfe, LLP and am currently employed by the law firm of Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP.

I have used the Microsoft system as an accomplished Administrative Assistant for many years and have been extremely pleased with their products and their support teams. The majority of businesses use the Microsoft system and are also very satisfied. Most high schools are under the Apple/Macintosh system, which I feel is far less superior to the Microsoft system.

I am writing to voice my support for reasonable men and women to settle the Microsoft Anti-Trust Suit by the Department of Justice. It is unbelievable to me that this case has gone so far. The Government may have thought they were doing a good thing for the American public when this case originated, but the Justice Department has destroyed everything the computer industry has worked for. This lawsuit has contributed to the slowing of our economy. Our economy has been given an edge in the international marketplace by the computer industry. Unfortunately, this lawsuit has caused us to give all other nations a chance to take our place. When Microsoft was forced to deal with lawyers and trials and everything else involved with this lawsuit they had to halt their research and development. To move ahead with business and compete on the international level, they are going to have to backtrack three years in order to move forward. The current technology revolution is only going to expand in the coming years. This case has cost our country more than just money. We are Americans! Why are we not allowed the opportunity to be competitive?

Something needs to be done to end this case as promptly as possible. No one benefits from all this -- not even Microsoft's competitors, which is evidenced by their decline in the stock market. Microsoft needs to be allowed to continue their business of delivering innovative technologies to the marketplace. They have agreed to change their business practices and will allow their competitors access to their source codes and internal interface designs.

As an employee who has 35 years' experience working for some of America's Who's Who, I would have been lost without Microsoft and their unending help. This settlement is obviously the right thing for our nation. Our economy cannot withstand further delay. Please do whatever is necessary to put an end to this lawsuit. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Arlene M. Clemens